

# **Consortium for Blood Groups Genes (CBGG)**

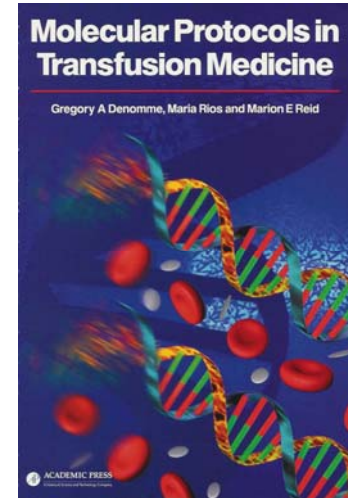
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# **CBGG: Key Points of Talk**

- **How CBGG started**
- **Originally called AABGG**
- **Purpose**
- **Accomplishments**
- **Mission and Goals**

# CBGG: Background

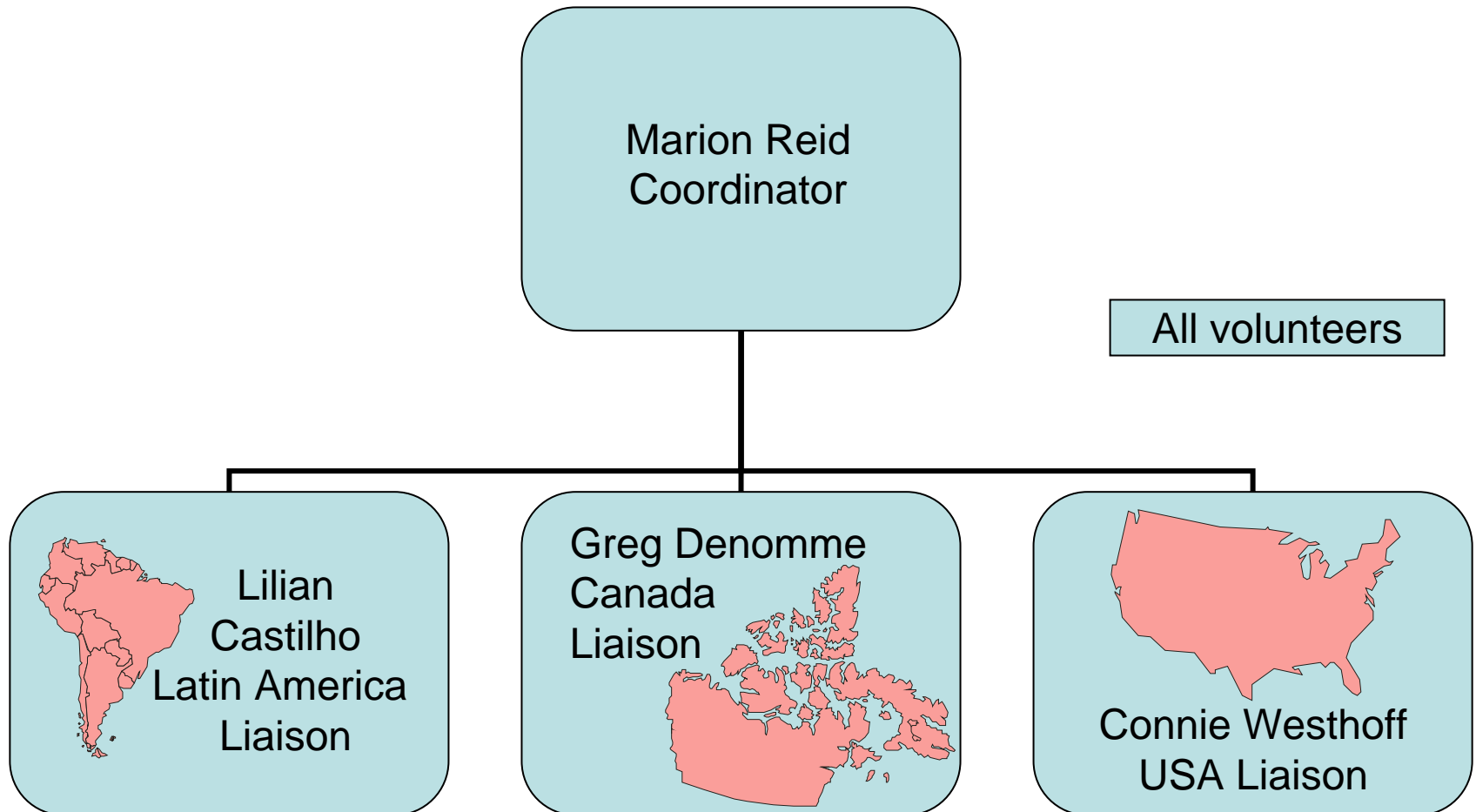
- ***Molecular Protocols in Transfusion Medicine* was well received; 500+ copies sold by 2003**
- **A proficiency exchange program of DNA samples had been established**
- **Once a year NYBC sends DNA to participants; once a year participants send DNA to NYBC**
- **There are eight participating laboratories**
  - **Connie Westhoff, Dan Bellisimo, Gayle Teramura, Geoff Daniels, Greg Denomme, Jill Storry, Lilian Castilho, Marion Reid**
- **DNA from 1 or 2 samples are sent for testing for a defined SNP (or two)**
- **Results sent to lab who sent the sample(s) who confirms typings for testing lab's records**



# **CBGG: Origin**

- **In 2004, during time off in Brazil following a Symposium “Molecular Aspects of Blood Transfusion”, I came up with the idea of having a support group**
- **Lilian liked the idea and encouraged me**
- **Americas Association for Blood Group Genes (AABGG)**
- **Upon returning to USA, I contacted Connie and Greg, who were doing molecular analyses for blood groups for clinical purposes**

# CBGG: Structure



# **CBGG: Beginnings**

- **Fall 2004, contacted people we could think of, who were interested in molecular analyses for blood groups and platelets**
- **Asked if they were interested in joining a consortium and for names of others**
- **Created an e-mail address list of 21 people**
- **Sent an e-mail to all outlining the purpose**
- **Received a positive response from all**
- **Arranged a meeting for Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004 in Baltimore, which was attended by 24**

# **First Meeting: Baltimore October 2004**

- **Language – English**
- **Membership – open to all interested in DNA assays in transfusion medicine (RBCs, Platelets, Neutrophils)**
- **AABGG name changed to Consortium for Blood Group Genes (CBGG) so no implied geographic restriction to membership**
- **Meet where members might be attending (AABB, ASH, ISBT)**
- **Interact & share knowledge, ideas, concerns**
- **Identify formats for interacting**
  - E-mail
  - Newsletter
  - Web site ([cbgg.net](http://cbgg.net))
  - AABB Special Interest Group (SIG)

# **First Meeting: Baltimore October 2004**

- **Write SOPs, Standards, and prepare templates for Request Forms, worksheets, Reports, and Disclaimers**
- **Establish and operate proficiency program**
- **Establish repository of well characterized DNA for assay validation and controls**
- **Identify sources of funding**
- **Identify centers of excellence for referring unusual samples for detailed analysis of specific genes**
- **Write Letter to Editors to “advertise”**



# **Areas of Focus - Working Parties**

- **Disclaimers**
- **DNA repository**
- **Funding**
- **Proficiency program**
- **Request Forms, Worksheets, Reports**
- **SOPs**
- **Standards of practice**
- **Structure and Bylaws**
- **Terminology**
- **Website**

# Discussions with FDA

- **Spoke with Sheryl Kochman, Chief, Devices Review Branch**
- **Would FDA consider/allow/embrace molecular methods for testing for blood groups?**
- **Suggested a meeting of interested people to discuss the needs, value, issues**

# Letter to the Editor

- Letter summarizing inaugural meeting was published in **Immunohematology 2005:21:129-31** by **Greg Denomme and Marion Reid**
- **Content:**
  - **Background**
  - **Overview of topics discussed: language, membership, name, web site, working parties**
  - **Call for interested readers to get involved**

# **Second Meeting: Seattle October 2005**

- **19 Attendees**

- **Discussions**

- **Misconceptions about DNA testing**
- **Genotyping for blood group genes - not a disease**
- **FDA perspectives**
- **Storage and unlinking DNA samples**
- **Nucleic acid testing versus DNA testing**
- **Mission statement prepared**
- **Logo design**
- **Working parties broke into small working groups**

# **CBGG Mission Statement**

**To establish standards, operate a proficiency program, and provide education, for laboratories involved in nucleic acid testing for the determination of blood group and platelet antigens**

# Possible Logo



Thanks to Lillian Castilho, Leonardo Trevisan, and Ana Paula Cozac

## **Third Meeting: Miami Beach October 2006**

- **Focus on a few selected items**
- **E-mailed members for their priorities**
- **The “winners” will be discussed**
- **Agenda will be decided after this meeting**
- **To date 18 members plan to attend; 8 regrets**

# **CBGG Goals**

- **Establish a DNA bank**
- **Establish and operate a proficiency program**
- **Develop template Request Forms, Worksheets, Reports**
- **Develop disclaimers**
- **Develop standards of practice**



# CBGG is all about helping each other

